

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Health Services

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Nogales Wash IOI Partial Breach Monday Update

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Work continues on the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI) to fix a partial breach. The breach was discovered last week near the intersection of Old Tucson Road and the Nogales Wash.

Bank stabilization and other preparatory work is proceeding on schedule.

In the meantime, Public Health officials from Santa Cruz County and the State of Arizona advise people to stay out of the Nogales Wash and Santa Cruz River. Even in the absence of untreated wastewater, storm flows are typically high in pollutants that can be harmful. Water near and downstream of the IOI partial breach is of particular concern and should be avoided.

Those who have a private well in the county within 100 feet of the Santa Cruz River are advised to have their well tested for contamination.

Livestock owners and farmers are being asked by the Department of Agriculture not to allow animals to go into or drink river water. And until further testing is completed, it is recommended that water from the Santa Cruz River not be used when watering food crops or gardens.

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality continues to sample water.

Officials ask that the public refrain from entering into areas where repair work is underway for the safety of the public and employees working in the area. Drivers should be especially careful in areas where repair crews are working near roadways.

The Nogales International Airport has issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) for one nautical mile around the worksite and has requested that drone use be restricted in areas where crews are working.

A hotline (520-375-7784) is available for public and media inquiries between the hours of 8am and 5pm, Monday through Friday.

Updates will be posted on the Santa Cruz County Facebook page, Twitter page @santacruzaz, website at www.santacruzcountyaz.gov and <https://ein.az.gov>.

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